

Subject: U.S. coin valuation

Lyon, Abigail D.
[Menominee, MI]

February 13, 1920

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Miss Abigail D. Lyon
300 Somerville Avenue
Menominee, Michigan

My dear Miss Lyon:

I am very sorry that none of the coins mentioned in your list of February 9th are of anything more than face value, unless in uncirculated condition. It is almost universally true that American coins which have not been collected with a knowledge of their rarity turn out to be of no especial value.

I notice you speak of the arrow heads at the date on certain of the silver pieces in the fifties. I judge from this you have probably heard of the famous half dollar of 1853 without the arrow heads at the date. This piece has created tremendous excitement, and I suppose thousands of people have been looking over their half dollars to see if they might have a specimen of the rare variety. As a matter of fact, only two of these pieces are known, and as both these are already in the hands of collectors, the chance of anyone accidentally getting hold of one is too slight to be considered. This is equally true of the other rare American coins.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.